THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 17th November 1949.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Non-availability of court-fee stamps of some small denominations in Bellary.

* 20-A *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that court-fee stamps of small denominations, other than three annas and one-rupee, are not available for sale by stamp vendors in Bellary for the last two to three weeks ;

(*b*) whether, as a consequence thereof, the parties are obliged to affix three annas court-fee stamps to copy stamps instead of two annas court-fee stamps and sustain a loss of two annas in respect of each copy stamp ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Collector of the district has prohibited stamp vendors from issuing single copy stamps and instructed them to issue double copy stamps only affixing the requisite court-fee stamps on the reverse side of the copy stamps ;

(*d*) whether the parties are incurring loss in numerous cases, where the front page of the copy stamp only is written upon and the reverse side is kept blank ; and

(*e*) whether the Government have considered the matter and are issuing instructions to Collectors to cancel the prohibition referred to in clause (*c*) above and permit stamp vendors to issue as many single copy stamps as the parties may require?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No information is available with the Government in the matter, but a report has been called for from the Collector of Bellary.

" Under existing orders, the copying fee for the embossed page of the copy stamp paper is three annas and for the reverse page the fee is three annas when the number of words written does not exceed 176 and when the number exceeds 176 the fee is four annas. The fee for the reverse page is paid by means of affixture of court-fee stamps.

" (*c*) & (*d*) No information is available with the Government and they are awaiting the Collector's report.

" (*e*) The question will be examined on receipt of the Collector's report."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" I put the question because we are feeling great inconvenience in Bellary for the last one month since

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court-fee stamps of less than one rupee are not available in Bellary. Will the Hon. Minister see that court-fee stamps of smaller denominations are supplied to Bellary and issued to parties when they require? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I shall take immediate action in the matter."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I request the Hon. Minister to issue instructions to sell single copy stamps also. Double copy stamps alone are sold and they refuse to sell single copy stamps. They issue double copy stamps affixing five to six annas on the reverse when only the front page is written upon."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I do not know the exact position in the matter. As I have already stated I have called for a report from the Collector. I shall take early action in the matter."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may see the Minister for further information in the matter."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" I wrote a private letter to the Collector of Bellary two weeks ago which has not been acknowledged. That is why I put this urgent short notice question to the Hon. Minister. Will the Hon. Minister please see that the subordinate officials of government expedite action in matters like this where a loss of nearly Rs. 250 is sustained daily by the parties? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I quite appreciate the public service that the hon. Member is trying to do and I shall instruct the officers to see that immediate action is taken."

Production of Civil Courts certificates for obtaining copies of some public documents from the Revenue officers.

* 20-B *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that invariably Revenue Officers, such as Tahsildars and Deputy Collector in Bellary district insist upon production of a certificate from the Civil Courts about the necessity of parties producing certified copies of certain public documents in their custody, before they grant copies thereof;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the District Judge of Bellary declines to grant such certificates as there is no statutory rule to do so; and

(*c*) whether the Government have considered the necessity to issue instructions to the Collector of Bellary district and subordinate authorities not to insist on the production of certificates as mentioned in clause (*a*) above for grant of copies of public documents?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) to (*c*) Necessary information has been called for and has not yet been received. It will be furnished on receipt."